IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows.

1.   (Currently Amended) A method for maintaining login preference information of users of a network-based transaction facility, the method comprising:

communicating user interface information to a client via a communications network, the user interface information including information concerning a plurality of features within the network-based transaction facility and specifying a login interface facilitating user input of login preference information pertaining to each of the plurality of features;

receiving the login preference information from the client via the communications network; and

utilizing the login preference information to ~~control~~ selectively activate ~~user access to~~ any of the plurality of features, which are identified in the login preference information by a user, within the network-based transaction facility via the communications network, wherein ~~control~~ activation is enforced with subsequent login sessions initiated by the user by utilizing the login preference information, after the user provides login information, which is separate from the login preference information, in order to initiate the subsequent login sessions.

2.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the login preference information indicates whether a user password should be remembered for each of the plurality of features.

3.   (Original) The method of claim 1 comprising storing the login preference information in a database.

4.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3 further comprising:

initiating a user session upon receiving the user login information;

retrieving the login preference information from the database using the user login information;

storing the login preference information in a session cookie during the user session;

receiving a user request to access a selected feature of the plurality of features within the network-based transaction facility; and

utilizing the login preference information in the session cookie when determining whether to require the user to enter user access information before providing user access to the selected feature.

5.   (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein the login preference information is stored in the session cookie in a secured manner.

6.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3 further comprising:

receiving a user request not to use a cookie during user online activity within the network-based transaction facility; and

retrieving the login preference information from the database when determining whether to require the user to enter the user login information before providing user access to a selected feature of the plurality of features within the network-based transaction facility.

7.   (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

presenting a user interface allowing the user to change the login preference information; and

updating the login preference information in a database.

8.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

receiving the user login information;

determining that the user has previously provided the login preference information; and

presenting a welcome user interface including user interface information indicating that the user has previously provided the login preference information.

9.   (Original) The method of claim 1 including always requiring a user password for any feature involving display of user personal information.

10.   (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein the user personal information includes any one of a group comprising credit card information and registration information.

11.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the network-based transaction facility is a network-based auction facility.

12.   (Currently Amended) A method to control access to a network-based transaction facility, the method including:

        identifying a user associated with a network session that logs into the network-based transaction facility by using user login information, which is separate from user access preferences;

        identifying the stored access preferences associated with the user, the stored access preferences indicating access requirements to each of a plurality of features provided by the network-based transaction facility; and

        controlling access to each of the plurality of features in accordance with the stored access preferences.

13.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12 wherein the controlling comprises implementing different access restrictions to respective features of the plurality of features according to the stored access preferences.

14.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12 wherein the controlling requires selectively requiring user identity verification information as a portion of the user login information to access a first feature of the plurality of features in accordance with the stored access preferences.

15.   (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein the user identity verification information comprises a password.

16.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12 including communicating a request to the user to determine a set of access preferences pertaining to the plurality of features, and storing a response to the request as the ~~stored~~ access preferences.

17.   (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein the request comprises a user interface via which the user composes the response.

18.   (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein the user interface comprises a markup language document.

19.   (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein the plurality of features includes any one of a group comprising sell, bid, chat, feedback, account information, personalization, tracking and financial features.

20.   (Currently Amended) A system for maintaining login preference information of users of a network-based transaction facility, the system comprising:

        a display function to communicate user interface information to a client via a communications network, the user interface information including information concerning a plurality of features within the network-based transaction facility and specifying a login interface facilitating user input of login preference information pertaining to each of the plurality of features <u>after a user has logged into the network-based transaction facility via the login interface with login information, which is separate from the login preference information, and the login preference information selectively identifies a number of the plurality of features to activate for the user</u>;

        a receive function to receive the login preference information from the client via the communications network; and

        an access function to utilize the login preference information when controlling user access to any of the plurality of features within the network-based transaction facility via the

communications network, ~~wherein control is enforced during subsequent login sessions to the network-based transaction facility by using the login preference information~~.

21.   (Currently Amended) A system to control access to a network-based transaction facility, the system including:

a user identification function to identify a user associated with a network session that logs into the network-based transaction facility, the user identification function utilizes user login information, which is separate from user access preferences;

a receive function to identify ~~stored~~ the access preferences associated with the user, the ~~stored~~ access preferences selectively indicating access requirements to each of a plurality of features provided by the network-based transaction facility; and

an access function to ~~controlling~~ control access to each of the plurality of features in accordance with the ~~stored~~ access preferences.

22.   (Currently Amended) A system for maintaining login preference information of users of a network-based transaction facility, the system comprising:

a first means for communicating user interface information to a client via a communications network, the user interface information including information concerning a plurality of features within the network-based transaction facility and specifying a login interface facilitating user input of login preference information pertaining to each of the plurality of features;

a second means for receiving the login preference information from the client via the communications network; and

a third means for utilizing the login preference information to selectively activate ~~control user access to~~ any of the plurality of features within the network-based transaction facility via the communications network, wherein ~~control~~ activation is enforced for subsequent login sessions into the network-based transaction facility by using the login preference information, after the user provides login information, separate from the login preference information, to initiate the subsequent login sessions.

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR § 1.116 – EXPEDITED PROCEDURE   **Page 7**
Serial Number: 09/772,347   Dkt: 2043.038US1
Filing Date: January 29, 2001
Title: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR MAINTAINING LOGIN PREFERENCE INFORMATION OF USERS IN A NETWORK-BASED
         TRANSACTION FACILITY

23.   (Currently Amended) A system to control access to a network-based transaction facility, the system including:

a first means for identifying a user associated with a network session that logs into the network-based transaction facility with user login information, which is separate from user access preferences;

a second means for identifying ~~stored~~ the access preferences associated with the user, the ~~stored~~ access preferences selectively indicating access requirements to each of a plurality of features provided by the network-based transaction facility; and

a third means for controlling access to each of the plurality of features in accordance with the ~~stored~~ access preferences.

24.   (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium that provides instructions, which when executed on a processor, cause said processor to perform operations comprising:

communicating user interface information to a client via a communications network, the user interface information including information concerning a plurality of features within the network-based transaction facility and specifying a login interface facilitating user input of login preference information pertaining to each of the plurality of features, wherein the client provides login information to login to the network-based transaction facility, and the login information is separate from the login preference information;

receiving the login preference information from the client via the communications network; and

utilizing the login preference information to ~~control~~ selectively activate ~~user access to~~ any of the plurality of features within the network-based transaction facility via the communications network~~, wherein control is enforced for subsequent login sessions into the network-based facility by using the login preference information.~~

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR § 1.116 – EXPEDITED PROCEDURE

Serial Number: 09/772,347

Filing Date: January 29, 2001

Title: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR MAINTAINING LOGIN PREFERENCE INFORMATION OF USERS IN A NETWORK-BASED
               TRANSACTION FACILITY

Page 8

Dkt: 2043.038US1

25.   (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium that provides instructions, which when executed on a processor, cause said processor to perform operations comprising:

identifying a user associated with a network session that logs into the network-based transaction facility with user login information that is separate from user access preferences;

identifying ~~stored~~ the access preferences associated with the user, the ~~stored~~ access preferences selectively indicating access requirements to each of a plurality of features provided by the network-based transaction facility; and

controlling access to each of the plurality of features in accordance with the ~~stored~~ access preferences.